

# IDRL – International Disaster Response Law

INDIMA– Legal Aspects Workshop

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# What is ‚IDRL‘ and how is it connected to the Red Cross?

- International Law?
- National Law?
- Is it binding?
- IDRL Guidelines of the International Federation of the Red Cross & the Red Crescent



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# A Short History of IDRL

- **2001** IFRG started the IDRL Programme (in how could a legal framework contribute to better and faster disaster relief)
- **2003**: The 28th International RCRC Conference recommended the development of IDRL Guidelines
- **2006-2007**: High Level Regional Forums (in Vienna), consultations with 140+ govts, 140 RCRC NS and 40 other organisations



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# A Little More History...

- **November 2007**: Adoption of the finished IDRL guidelines at the 30th International RCRC Conference
- **2008-2009**: Austrian RC was part of a transnational EU-funded project with the aim of disseminating the IDRL guidelines among national governments & authorities
- **Result?**



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# Why IDRL Guidelines?

- Avoid unnecessary red tape (customs duties, tolls, taxes, visas, permits, recognition of qualification, legal personality...)
- Avoid poor quality and bad coordination from some relief providers (winter coats for Africa, no coordination with other providers, no regard for demand, culturally unacceptable behaviour, proselytizing...)
- Enable free transfer of goods, funds and relief personnel



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# What do the IDRL Guidelines regulate? (I)

- Non-binding template for national laws
- Legal disaster preparedness for disasters which a country cannot handle alone
- No change to HRL, IHL or other International Law
- R2P: States should seek international assistance if they cannot cope with a disaster



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# What do the IDRL Guidelines regulate? (II)

- Responsibilities of Assisting Actors
- States should have Early Warning Facilities
- Initiation of relief only with consent at the request of the affected state
- Fast & free visas for relief workers and easy recognition of professional qualifications
- Free access to and movement in the disaster area



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# What do the IDRL Guidelines regulate? (III)

- Exempt relief goods from all duties, taxes, fees, import and export restrictions
- Minimized tape, especially for medicine and medical equipment
- Facilitate re-exportation of equipment and unused goods
- Reduce inspection requirements
- Provide a temporary domestic legal status to relief factors



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# What has the Impact been so far?

- The hopes have NOT been fulfilled
- A few countries have adopted legislation which was inspired by the IDRL Guidelines
- Very diverse of course
- No universal and harmonized Disaster Law
- This lack is still costing lives on a regular basis
- There is still a clear need for a binding international instrument



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Thank you very much for your attention.

Any questions?

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